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or the footnotes to such studies as Turner's "Character and Influence of the Indian Trade in Wisconsin," Quaife's "Chicago and the Old Northwest," Hanna's "Wilderness Trail," or Alvord and Bidgood's "First Explorations of the Trans-Allegheny Region," the more so as such a doubtful authority as Parrish's "Historic Illinois" is cited several times. Dr. Surrey has, nevertheless, brought together a multitude of useful facts, most of them not readily available elsewhere, which no future student of early Louisiana can afford to ignore.

MARC DE VILLIERS. **A History of the Foundation of New Orleans (1717-1722)** Transl. from the French by Warrington Dawson. Maps, ills. *Louisiana Hist. Quart.* Vol. 3, 1920, No. 2, pp. 157-251.

The history of New Orleans may be said to commence with the year 1702 when De Remonville proposed the creation of a post at the "Mississippi Portage" (i.e. from Lake Pontchartrain). The date of the foundation "may be fixed at pleasure anywhere between the spring of 1717 and the month of June, 1722," the latter date following the decision that raised the town to the rank of capital. The vicissitudes of these years, which include the great flood of 1719, are here recounted.

GUIDES TO THE WEST INDIES

F. A. OBER. **A Guide to the West Indies, Bermuda, and Panama.** 3rd revised edit. ix and 533 pp.; maps, ills., index. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1920. $3.50. 7 x 4½ inches.

K. J. BURDON. **A Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis, a Presidency of the Leeward Islands Colony, Containing Information for Residents and Visitors Concerning the Islands of St. Christopher or St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla.** viii and 247 pp.; maps, ills., index. The West India Committee, London, 1920. 7 x 5 inches.

"A Guide to the West Indies, Bermuda, and Panama [the Canal Zone]," first published in 1908, is here brought up to date. For the tourist it is a comprehensive and useful volume. It might, however, be improved by the inclusion of more and better maps.

The handbook on St. Christopher (St. Kitts), Nevis, and Anguilla, which islands together constitute a Presidency of the Federal Colony of the Leeward Islands, is written by the wife of the present administrator. Mrs. Burdon has made good use of her opportunities to bring together in convenient form a large body of miscellaneous information useful to the traveler and in places suggestive to the geographer. Though small, the islands (area 155 square miles) have had an interesting and varied history; and this is described at some length. There are separate maps of the islands on the scale of 2 miles to the inch, and there is a reproduction of the "oldest known map of St. Kitts."

THE VEGETATION OF PARAGUAY

R. CHODAT. **La végétation du Paraguay: Résultats scientifiques d'une mission botanique suisse au Paraguay.** In collaboration with W. Vischer. Vol. 1, 157 pp.; map, ills.; Vol. 2, pp. 158-290; ills. Imprimerie Jent, Geneva, 1916, 1917. 9½ x 6½ inches.

Because so little is known as yet about the general vegetative features of Paraguay, anything that will throw light on the subject is welcome to the ecologist and the plant geographer. While the recent publication of Chodat helps to some extent in giving glimpses of the vegetation of this country, it falls short of containing a comprehensive view of the general vegetative features. In a brief introductory chapter on climatology and physical geography there is an attempt to relate the vegetation to these two groups of factors, accompanied by a small sketch map of that part of the country east of the Paraguay River showing inadequately, except for limited areas, the physical features. This map does not show the vegetative types accompanying such features. From the text it is gathered that, generally speaking, the country is divided into two physical types, the low more or less swampy lands occupying the Paraguay portion of the Gran Chaco region west of the Paraguay River and in places as belts of greater or less extent on the western side of the river. This type has a vegetation similar to that of the Gran Chaco region of Argentina. The rest of the country is a dissected plateau, with a more or less continuous range of comparatively low mountains stretching from north to south and dividing the country into two unequal parts, the Paraguay and Paraná drainage regions. This plateau, according to the author, lowers gradually from the north to the south; at Punta-Pona near the northeastern corner it is 660 meters above sea level. At Ipê Hu it is 420 meters; at Caaguazú near the center it is 300 meters; and at Encarnación in the southeastern corner, at the big bend of the Paraná River, it is 120 meters.

The plateau region contains a subtropical rain forest generally speaking; that to the east of the divide is better developed than that to the west, but both forested regions are interrupted by grasslands and savana forests. The main part of the report deals with autecological rather than synecological problems; that is the species are treated as individuals rather than in communities. The publication is well illustrated with pen sketches and reproductions from photographs, which give one a better idea of the vegetation than the text; and with numerous drawings of the microscopic features of the plant tissues. Some new species are described.

H. N. WHITFORD

AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE GEOGRAPHY OF ARCTIC ALASKA

E. DEK. LEFFINGWELL. **The Canning River Region, Northern Alaska.** With a preface by A. H. Brooks. 251 pp.; maps, diagrs., ills., bibliogr., index. *U. S. Geol. Survey Professional Paper 109*, Washington, D. C., 1919. 11½ x 9 inches.

The region that Mr. Leffingwell describes lies on the northern coast of Alaska facing the Arctic Ocean and about 60 miles west of the International Boundary. A more bleak or inhospitable place could hardly be imagined, but the author must have been actuated by a great love of arctic nature for he kept going back to the region time after time, so that during the ten years between 1905 and 1915 he spent six winters and nine summers there, and all at his own expense. His work and observations covered a very wide range. He made a reconnaissance, a topographical and geological map of a rectangle 70 miles square, and examined the geological structure; he made a map of the coast line for 300 miles, along one-half of which he carried a network of triangles; he determined his latitude with a probable error of a fraction of a second and his longitude by lunar occultations with a probable error of 7 seconds. He made soundings through the ice to a distance of about 100 miles from shore; the continental shelf extended out about 50 miles, and there he found a sudden change of depth from 30 to 320 fathoms in a distance of 2½ miles. Beyond this his line of 320 fathoms found no bottom. Captain Mikkelsen, who was with him the first year, made careful tidal observations; and Mr. Harris, of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, found that they supported the idea of extensive land in the Arctic Ocean to the north. This land has never been seen, but we must remember that the region where it is supposed to be has not been explored.

Mr. Leffingwell tells us of the climate and of the animal life and gives a long discussion of the ground ice; but let us summarize some of his results.

The region he studied partially bridges the gap between the region examined by the geologists of the International Boundary Survey on the east and that examined by the geologists of the U. S. Geological Survey on the west. All these studies show that the general structure of northern Alaska trends about east and west and is fairly continuous from the International Boundary to Cape Lisburne. Topographically the Endicott Mountains form the watershed between the Yukon River and the Arctic Ocean; the range is known under special names in its different parts. North of this is a piedmont plateau and then a coastal plain. In the region examined by Mr. Leffingwell these three provinces are separated by scarps which give the appearance of faults, but which in places may be steep folds. The main mountain range is made up of strongly folded schists of pre-Carboniferous age with some igneous intrusives. It rises to a general height of about 6,000 feet, with a few peaks as high as 9,000. The higher parts are covered with snow giving rise to numerous glaciers. These, however, could not be explored, but, according to Mr. Leffingwell's pictures and descriptions, they have no peculiar characteristics. In front of the Endicott Mountains, between the Canning and Okpilak Rivers, are three mountain ridges made up of folded Carboniferous limestones and sandstones, with gentle slopes towards the south and steep slopes to the north; their surfaces seem structural; they strongly suggest tilted blocks. They end abruptly, their folds apparently plunging down at both ends. In front of the